

***Message from Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., &
Yvette D. Diaz, Executive Director, Department of Community & Culture.***

We are pleased to present the first strategic plan for the State Office of Ethnic Affairs. The mission of the State Office of Ethnic Affairs is to ensure Utah State Government adequately meets the needs of Utah's ethnic community.

Current research indicates that embracing cultural diversity is an integral part of a healthy economy. Projections on Utah demographics clearly show this State's workforce will have a large percentage of ethnic workers in the near future. In order to assure State services and programs will be accessible to all citizens of Utah, the State Office of Ethnic Affairs will work with State agencies to review current practices. We will promote policies that support attitudes, behaviors, knowledge and skills necessary for State staff to work respectfully and effectively in a culturally diverse society.

This strategic plan is the beginning of a goal-oriented State Office of Ethnic Affairs that, in partnership with State agencies, the Ethnic Advisory Councils and the ethnic community, will work toward making Utah State Government more responsive to the needs of the ethnic community.

We would like to thank Luz Robles, Interim Director for the State Office of Ethnic Affairs; Leo Gonzalez, Director of Hispanic Affairs; Fotu Katoa, Director of Pacific Islander Affairs; Edith Mitko, Director of Asian Affairs; Michael Styles, Director of Black Affairs; Elizabeth Balcazar, Special Projects Coordinator; Andrea Sainz, Community Outreach Coordinator; and staff support Serafi Auva'a-Tavita and Laura Espinoza for their outstanding dedication and cooperative efforts to serve the ethnic community.

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor
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Executive Director
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